

REMARKS

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1 – 10 and 22 – 33 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ramachandran et al (United States Patent No. 6,457,640, hereinafter “Ramachandran”) in view of Kurijai et al (United States Patent No. 6,618,566, hereinafter “Kurijai”), rejected claims 11 – 13 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ramachandran in view of Kurijai and further in view of the specification, and rejected claims 14 – 21 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ramachandran in view of Kurijai and further in view of Shaw et al (United States Patent No. 5,602,974, hereinafter “Shaw”). Accordingly, Applicant respectfully provides the following:

The standard for a Section 103 rejection is set for in M.P.E.P 706.02(j), which provides:

To establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness, three basic criteria must be met. First there must be some suggestion or motivation, either in the references themselves or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art, to modify the references or combine reference teachings. Second, there must be a reasonable expectation of success. Finally, **the prior art reference (or references when combined) must teach or suggest all the claim limitations.** The teaching or suggestion to make the claimed combination and the reasonable expectation of success must both be found in the prior art, and not based on applicant’s disclosure. *In re Vaeck*, 947 F.2d 488, 20 USPQ2d 1438 (Fed. Cir. 1991). (Emphasis added).

Applicant respectfully submits that the references cited by the Examiner do not teach or suggest the limitations claimed in the present invention. In particular, independent claim 1 as provided herein claims a method for providing debit print job accounting, the method comprising: receiving a request from a user to render a print job; spooling data of the print job to a spooler of one of: (i) a client computer device; and (ii) a print server; using a print subsystem component to authenticate the user and an account of the user, wherein the print subsystem component is one of: (i) the spooler; and (ii) a print processor; using the print subsystem component to parse the spooled data and determine a layout and a number of pages of the print

job; using the print subsystem component and the parsed data to determine a cost for consumables to render the print job, wherein the cost for consumables is determined prior to despooling print data of the print job to the printing device; using the print subsystem component to determine an amount of available funds in the user's account; and if the amount of available funds exceeds the cost for consumables, using the print subsystem component to debit the cost of the print job from the user's account and rendering the print job at the printing device.

These limitations are supported by the disclosure as originally filed. For example, reference is made to Figures 3A – 4D and the corresponding disclosure. And, in contrast, none of the references cited by the Examiner, alone or in combination, teaches or suggests all of the claimed limitations. Moreover, similar limitations are included in independent claim 29.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that for at least the reasons provided herein, the references cited by the Examiner, alone or in combination, do not teach or suggest all the claim limitations of the independent claims. And, since the references cited by the Examiner do not teach or suggest each and every limitation of the independent claims, Applicant respectfully submits that the prior art references do not make obvious the independent claims. Moreover, since the prior art references do not make obvious the independent claims, Applicant respectfully submits that the prior art references cited by the Examiner do not make obvious the corresponding dependent claims, which depend from the independent claims.

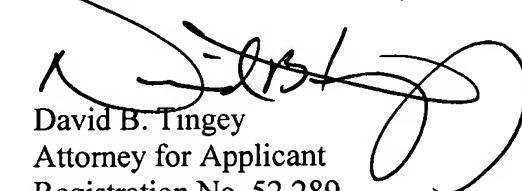
Thus, Applicant respectfully submits that for at least the reasons provided herein, the claim set as provided herein overcomes all rejections made by the Examiner in the Office Action.

CONCLUSION

Applicant submits that the amendments made herein do not add new matter and that the claims are now in condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicant requests favorable reconsideration. If the Examiner has any questions or concerns regarding this communication, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned.

DATED this 25th day of May, 2006.

Respectfully submitted,


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